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## To the R E A D E R.

**A**S we have unquestionable Authority from our Religion, our Laws, and our Government, for the applying our selves to the Promoting of a *National Reformation*, by the Suppressing of Prophaneness and Debauchery; and have moreover the Encouragement of an Approbation of the *Methods* by which the *Reformation of Manners* hath been carried on for several Years past with great Success in the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*, by a considerable Number of the *Lords Spiritual and Temporal* and of the *Honourable Judges of both Kingdoms*; so there is published in these Papers such Directions for all Persons to give their Assistance in this Pious and Noble Undertaking, that 'tis to be hoped that Men will not now easily find any just Excuses, under these Encouragements and Advantages, for their not assisting in it one way or other, according to their Opportunities and Abilities, who have either a Love to God, or Charity to Man, any due Regard to their Duty, or to the Welfare of their Country or Posterity.

# To the READER.

As we have undertaken this noble Authority from our  
 Request, our Lord our Government for  
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 ties and Abilities, who have either a Love to God, or  
 a Desire to see any due regard to their Duty, or  
 to the Welfare of their Country or Possession.



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By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION, For Preventing and Punishing Immorality and Prophaneness.

WILLIAM R.



Whereas We cannot but be deeply Sensible of the great Goodness and Mercy of Almighty God, in putting an End to a Long, Bloody and Expensive War, by the Conclusion of an honourable Peace: so We are not less touched with a Resentment, that notwithstanding this and many other great Blessings and Deliverances, Impiety, Prophaneness and Immorality do still abound in this Our Kingdom: And whereas nothing can prove a greater Dishonour to a well-ordered Government, where the Christian Faith is Professed, nor is likelier to provoke God to withdraw His Mercy and Blessings from Us, and instead thereof, to inflict heavy and severe Judgments upon this Kingdom, than the open and avowed Practice of Vice, Immorality and Prophaneness, which amongst many Men has too much prevailed in this Our Kingdom of late Years, to the high Displeasure of Almighty God,

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## A Proclamation.

the great Scandal of Christianity, and the ill and fatal Example of the rest of Our Loving Subjects, who have been Soberly Educated, and whose Inclinations would lead them to the Exercise of Piety and Virtue, did they not daily find such frequent and repeated Instances of Dissolute Living, Profphaneness and Impiety, which has in a great Measure been occasioned by the Neglect of the Magistrates not putting in Execution those good Laws which have been made for Suppressing and Punishing thereof, and by the ill Example of many in Authority, to the great Dishonour of God, and Reproach of our Religion: Wherefore, and for that We cannot expect Increase or Continuance of the Blessings We and Our Subjects Enjoy, without Providing Remedies to prevent the like evils for the future, We think Our Selves bound, by the Duty We owe to God, and the Care We have of the People committed to Our Charge, to proceed in taking effectual Course, that Religion, Piety and Good Manners may, according to Our hearty Desire, flourish and Increase under Our Administration and Government; and being thereunto moved by the Pious Address of the Commons in Parliament Assembled, We have thought fit, by the Advice of Our Privy Council, to Issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and do Declare Our Royal Purpose and Resolution to Discountenance and Punish all manner of Vice, Immorality and Profphaneness in all Persons from the highest to the lowest Degree within this Our Realm, and particularly in such who are Employed near Our Royal Person; and that, for the greater Encouragement of Religion and Morality, We will, upon all Occasions, Distinguish Men of Piety and Virtue by Marks of Our Royal Favour. And We do expect that all Persons of Honour, or in Place of Authority, will to their utmost contribute to the Discountenancing Men of Dissolute and Debauched Lives, that they being reduced to Shame and Contempt, may be enforced the sooner to Reform their ill habits and Practices,



## A Proclamation.

res, that the Displeasure of Good Men towards them may supply what the Laws (it may be) cannot wholly Prevent. And for the more Effectual Reforming these Men, who are a Discredit to Our Kingdom, Our further Pleasure is, and We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Judges, Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other Our Officers and Ministers, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, and other Our Subjects, whom it may Concern, to be very Vigilant and Strict in the Discovery and the Effectual Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons who shall be Guilty of Excessive Drinking, Blasphemy, Profane Swearing and Cursing, Lewdness, Profanation of the Lord's Day, or other Dissolute, Immoral or Disorderly Practices, as they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon Pain of Our highest Displeasure. And for the more Effectual Proceedings herein, We do hereby Direct and Command Our Judges of Assizes and Justices of Peace to give strict Charges, at the respective Assizes and Sessions, for the due Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons that shall presume to Offend in any the Kinds aforesaid; and also of all Persons that, contrary to their Duty, shall be Remiss or Negligent in Putting the said Laws in Execution; and that they do at their respective Assizes and Quarter Sessions of the Peace cause this Our Proclamation to be publicly Read in Open Court immediately before the Charge is given. And We do hereby further Charge and Command every Minister in his respective Parish or Chapel, to Read or cause to be Read this Our Proclamation, at least Four times in every Year, immediately after Divine Service, and to incite and stir up their respective Auditories to the Practice of Piety and Virtue, and the Avoiding of all Immorality and Profaneness. And to the end that all Vice and Debauchery may be Prevented, and Religion and Virtue Practised by all Officers, Private Soldiers, Mariners or others, who are Employed in Our Service,

## A Proclamation.

vice, either by Sea or Land, We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Commanders and Officers whatsoever, That they do take Care to Avoid all Profaneness, Debauchery, and other Immoralities, and that by the Piety and Virtue of their own Lives and Conversations they do set good Examples to all such as are under their Authority, and likewise to take Care and Inspect the Behaviour and Manners of all such as are under them, and to Punish all those who shall be Guilty of any the Offences aforesaid. And whereas several Wicked and Profane Persons have presumed to Print and Publish several Pernicious Books and Pamphlets, which contain in them Impious Doctrines against the Holy Trinity, and other Fundamental Articles of Our Faith, tending to the Subversion of the Christian Religion, therefore for the Punishing the Authors and Publishers thereof, and for the Preventing such Impious Books and Pamphlets being Published or Printed for the future, We do hereby strictly Charge and Prohibit all Persons that they do not presume to Write, Print or Publish any such Pernicious Books or Pamphlets, under the Pain of Incurring Our High Displeasure, and of being Punished according to the utmost Severity of the Law. And We do hereby strictly Charge and Require all Our Loving Subjects to Discover and Apprehend such Person and Persons whom they shall know to be the Authors or Publishers of any such Books or Pamphlets, and to bring them before some Justice of Peace or Chief Magistrate, in order that they may be Proceeded against according to Law.

Given at Our Court at Kensington the Four and twentieth Day of February, 1697. In the Tenth Year of Our Reign,

**G O D save the KING.**

By



By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION, For Preventing  
and Punishing Immorality and Prophane-  
ness.

WILLIAM R.



Whereas nothing can prove a greater  
Dishonour to a Well-Ordered  
Government, where the Christian  
Faith is Professed, nor is likelier  
to provoke God to withdraw his  
Mercy and Blessings from Us,  
and instead thereof to inflict hea-  
vy and Severe Judgments upon  
this Kingdom, than the open and  
avowed Practice of Vice, Immorality and Prophane-  
ness, which amongst many Men has too much Pre-  
vailed in this Our Kingdom of late Years, to the high  
Displeasure of Almighty God, the great Scandal of  
Christianity, and the ill and fatal Example of the rest  
of Our Loving Subjects, who have been Sobely E-  
ducated, and whose Inclinations would lead them to  
the Exercise of Piety and Virtue, did they not daily  
find such frequent and repeated Instances of Dissolute  
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great Measure been occasioned by the Neglect of the  
Ma-

## A Proclamation.

Magistrates not putting in Execution those good Laws which have been made for Suppressing and Punishing thereof, and by the ill example of many in Authority, to the great Dishonour of God and Reproach of Our Religion: Wherefore and for that We cannot expect Increase or Continuance of the Blessings We and Our Subjects Enjoy, without Providing Remedies to Prevent the like evils for the future, We think Our Selves Bound by the Duty We owe to God, and the Care we have of the People Committed to Our Charge, to Proceed in taking Effectual Course that Religion, Piety and Good Manners, may, according to Our hearty Desire, flourish, and Increase under Our Administration and Government; and being thereunto moved by the Pious Address of the Commons in Parliament Assembled, We have thought fit, by the Advice of Our Privy Council, to Issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and do Declare Our Royal Purpose and Resolution to Discountenance and Punish all manner of Vice, Immorality and Profaneness in all Persons, from the highest to the lowest Degree within this Our Realm, and particularly in such who are Employed near Our Royal Person; and that for the greater Encouragement of Religion and Loyalty, We will, upon all Occasions, Distinguish Men of Piety and Virtue, by Marks of Our Royal Favour. And We do expect that all Persons of Honour, or in Place of Authority, will to their utmost Contribute to the Discountenancing Men of Dissolute and Debauched Lives, that they being Reduced to Shame and Contempt, may be enforced the sooner to Reform their ill Habits and Practices, that the Displeasure of God Men towards them, may Supply what the Laws (it may be) cannot wholly Prevent. And for the more Effectual Reforming these Men, who are a Discredit to Our Kingdom, Our further Pleasure is, and We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Judges, Mayors,



## A Proclamation.

Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other our Officers and Ministers, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, and other our Subjects, whom it may concern, to be very Vigilant and Strict in the Discovery, and the Effectual Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons who shall be Guilty of Excessive Drinking, Blasphemy, Profane Swearing and Cursing, Lewdness, Profanation of the Lords Day, or other Dissolute, Immoral or Disorderly Practices, as they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon Pain of our highest Displeasure. And for the more Effectual Proceedings herein, We do hereby Direct and Command our Judges of Assizes and Justices of Peace, to give strict Charges at the respective Assizes and Sessions, for the due Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons that shall presume to Offend in any the kinds aforesaid, and also of all persons that, contrary to their Duty, shall be Remiss or Negligent in Putting the said Laws in Execution, and that they do at their respective Assizes and Quarter Sessions of the Peace, cause this our Proclamation to be publickly Read in open Court immediately before the Charge is given. And we do hereby further Charge and Command every Minister in his respective Parish or Chapel, to Read or cause to be Read this our Proclamation, at least Four times in every Year, immediately after Divine Service, and to incite and stir up their respective Auditories to the Practice of Piety and Virtue, and the Avoiding of all Immorality and Profaneness. And to the end that all Vice and Debauchery may be prevented, and Religion and Virtue Practised by all Officers, Private Soldiers, Mariners and others, who are Employed in our Service, either by Sea or Land, We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all our Commanders and Officers whatsoever, That they do take Care to Avoid all Profaneness, Debauchery and other Immoralities, and that by the Piety and Virtue of their  
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## A Proclamation.

of our Lives and Conversations they do set good Examples to all such as are under their Authority and likewise take Care and Inspect the Behaviour and Manners of all such as are under them, and to Punish all those who shall be Guilty of any the Offences aforesaid.

Given at Our Court at Kensington the Ninth Day of December, 1699. In the Eleventh Year of Our Reign.

**G O D save the K I N G.**



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Anno Sexto & Septimo

# GULIELMI III. REGIS.

*An Act for the more Effectual Suppressing Prophane Cursing and Swearing.*



Hereas it is found by Experience, that an Act of Parliament made in the One and twentieth year of the Reign of King *James the First*, Intituled, *An Act to Prevent and Reform Prophane Swearing and Cursing*, hath proved Ineffectual to the Suppressing of those detestable Sins, by reason of some Deficiencies in the said Act: Be it therefore Enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That if any Person or Persons shall (after the Four and twentieth Day of *June*, in the Year of our Lord, One thousand six hundred ninety five) Prophanely Swear or Curse in the presence or hearing of any Justice of Peace of the County, Riding or Division, or of the Mayor, or other

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Head Officer or Justice of Peace for any City or Town Corporate, where such Offence is or shall be committed, or that shall be thereof Convicted by Oath of One Witness, or by the Confession of the Party Offending, before any Justice of Peace of the County, or Mayor, or Bayliff, or other Chief Officer, or Justice of the Peace of such City or Town Corporate, where the said Offence shall be committed, That then, for every such Offence, the Party so Offending shall Forfeit and Pay to the Use of the Poor of the Parish, where such Offence or Offences shall be committed, the respective Sums herein after mentioned; (that is to say;) Every Servant, Day-Labourer, Common Soldier and Common Seaman, One Shilling; and every other Person, Two Shillings: And in case any of the Persons aforesaid shall after Conviction Offend a Second time, such Person shall Forfeit and Pay double; And if a Third time, treble the Sum respectively by him or her to be paid for the First Offence,

And it is hereby further Enacted, That upon Neglect or Refusal of Payment of the said Forfeiture, any Justice of Peace, of the County, Riding or Division, or Mayor, or other Head Officer, or Justice of Peace of any City, or Town Corporate, where the said Offences shall be committed, shall and are hereby Authorized and Required to Direct and Send his Warrant to the Constable, Tythingman, Church-Warden, or Overseer of the Poor of the Parish where the Offence shall be committed, or where the Offender shall Inhabit, thereby commanding them, or some one or more of them, to Levy by Distress and Sale of the Goods of the Offender, the Sum so Forfeited, for the Use of the Poor of the Parish,



as aforesaid; And in case no such Distress can be had, then every such Offender, being above the Age of Sixteen Years, shall, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of the said Justice of Peace or other Officer, as aforesaid, be publickly set in the Stocks for the space of One Hour for every single Offence, and for any Number of Offences, whereof he shall be Convicted, at one and the same time, then Two Hours: And if the Party Offending be under the Age of Sixteen Years, and shall not forthwith Pay the said Forfeitures, then he or she shall, by Warrant, as aforesaid, be Whipped by the Constable, or by the Parent, Guardian or Master of such Offender, in the presence of the Constable.

And be it further Enacted, That if any Justice of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate, shall wilfully and wittingly omit the Performance of his Duty in the Execution of this Act, he shall Forfeit the Sum of Five Pounds, the one Moiety to the Use of the Informer, to be Recovered by Action, Suit, Bill, or Plaint, in any of His Majesty's Courts at *Westminster*, wherein no Essoign, Protection or Wager of Law shall be Allowed, nor any more than one Imparlance.

And it is hereby further Enacted, That if any Action or Suit shall be Commenced or Brought against any Justice of Peace, Constable, or other Officer, or Person whatsoever, for doing or causing to be done any thing in pursuance of this Act, concerning the said Offences, the Defendant, in such Action, may Plead the General Issue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence: And if upon such Action Verdict be given for the Defendant, or the Plaintiff become Nonsuit, or Discontinue his Action, then the Defendant shall have Treble Costs.

Anno Regni sexto & septimo, &c.

Provided always, and it is hereby Enacted, That no Person shall be Prosecuted or Troubled for any Offence against this Statute, unless the same be Proved or Prosecuted within Ten Days next after the Offence committed.

And it is further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be publickly Read Four several times in the Year in all Parish Churches, and all Publick Chapels, by the Parson, Vicar or Curate of the respective Parishes or Chapels, immediately after Morning Prayer, on Four several Sundays; (that is to say) the Sunday next after the Four and twentieth Day of *June*, the Nine and twentieth Day of *September*, the Five and twentieth Day of *December*, and the Five and twentieth Day of *March*, under the Pain of Twenty Shillings for every such Omission or Neglect.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Justice of Peace, Mayor, or other Head Officer, shall Register in a Book, to be kept for that Purpose, all the Convictions made before him upon this Act, and the time of making thereof, and for what Offence, and shall Certifie the same to the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the said County or Place where the Offences are committed, to be there kept upon Record by the respective Clerks of the Peace, to be seen without Fee or Reward.

# An Abstract of the Penal-Laws

AGAINST

## Prophaneness and Immorality,

Commanded to be put in Speedy and Vigorous Execution, by His Majesty's Gracious and Pious Proclamations, pursuant to the Humble Addresses of the Honourable House of Commons.

### OFFENCES.

Laws  
and  
Statutes.

### PENALTIES.

#### Prophanation of the Lord's Day.

**A**LL Laws in force concerning the Observation of the Lord's Day, shall be put in Execution: This Day is by every one to be Sanctified and kept Holy; and all Persons must be careful herein to exercise themselves in the Duties of Piety and true Religion, Publickly and Privately; and every one on this Day (not having a reasonable Excuse) must diligently resort to some Publick place, where the Service of God is exercised, or must be present at some other Place, (allowed of by Law) in the Practice of some Religious Duty, either of Prayer, Preaching, Reading, or Expounding of the Scriptures, or Conference upon the same.

29 Car. 2.  
Cap. 7.

1 W. & M.  
Cap. 18.

1 Eliz. c. 2.  
3 Jas. c. 4.

**N**OTE, That His Majesty's Protestant Subjects dissenting from the Church of England, and qualified according to the late Statute of Indulgence, are exempted from the Penalties of the Statutes, 3 Jac. 1 Eliz. 23. Eliz. 29. Eliz. and some other Statutes. But this Indulgence extends not to such prophane Persons who nowhere attend on the Publick Worship of God Established, or allow'd by Law; nor to any that in Preaching or Writing deny the Trinity.

# OFFENCES.

Such as Repair not to Church, &c. on *Sundays* and *Holidays*,  
One Witness,

Absenting for a Month,  
If a Twelve-month or more,

If any come not to the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper once a Year,

None shall speak or do any thing in Contempt of the most Holy Sacrament.

Whosoever shall disturb the Church or Congregation permitted, or misuse the Teacher,  
Proof by Two Witnesses before a Justice of Peace.

Whosoever shall disturb any Preacher allow'd in his open Sermon or Collation, or be procuring or abetting thereunto, or shall Rescue, &c. any Offender, &c.

Accusation must be by Two Witnesses, or Confession.

Such as Meet or Assemble out of their own Parish upon the Lord's-Day, for any Sports or Pastimes whatsoever; or such as shall use any Unlawful Exercise or Pastime in their own Parish upon the Lord's-Day.

## Laws and Statutes.

1 Eliz. c. 2.

23 Eliz. cap. 1.

3 Jac. c. 4.

1 Ed. 6. c. 1.

1 W. & M. cap. 18.

1 M. cap. 3.

1 Car. c. 1.

# PENALTIES.

Twelve Pence for every Default, to be levied by Distress; and for want of Distress, to be committed to some Prison, until the same be paid. *Vid.* 14, 15. §.

Twenty Pounds per Month, or forfeiture of Two parts in Three of their Estates.

Their Names and Surnames to be Presented: Forty Shillings Reward to such as present them.

By Oath of Two Lawful Witnesses, by Three Justices, *Quorum un.* to be Bound over and Prosecuted in Sessions.

To find Sureties in 50 l. or committed till next Quarter-Sessions, and on Conviction to Forfeit 20 l.

To be Committed by any Justice of the County to safe Custody, and within six days the said Committing Justice, with one other Justice, (if the Offender upon Examination shall be found Guilty) shall Commit him to Gaol without Bail, &c. for Three Months, and farther to the next Quarter-Sessions, &c.

Three Shillings and Four Pence to the Poor, where, &c. to be levied by Distress and Sale, restoring the Overplus, &c. and for want of Distress, to be sent to the Stocks for Three Hours; but they must be questioned within a Month.

If



## OFFENCES.

*Laws  
and  
Statutes.*

If any Carrier, Wagoner, Butcher, &c. with Horse, Wain, or Cart, or Drover with Cattle, shall Travel upon the Lord's-Day by themselves, or any other for them,

3 Car. c. 1.

If any Butcher, or any other for him, shall Kill or Sell any Victuals upon the Sunday,

3 Car. c. 1.

Two Witnesses, View, or Confession,

If any Shoe-Maker shall shew with intent to Sell any Boots, Shoes, &c. on the Sunday,

1 Jac. c. 22.

If any Person of the Age of 14, shall on the Lord's-Day, or any part thereof, do any Worldly Labour, Business, or Work, &c. except Works of Necessity and Charity,

29 Car. 2.  
Cap. 7.

If any Person shall Cry, Shew forth, or put to Sale, any Wares, Fruit, Goods, &c. except Milk only, before the Hours of Nine in the Morning, & after four in the Afternoon,

29 Car. 2.  
cap. 7.

No Drover, Horse-Courser, Wagoner, Butcher, Higler, or any of their Servants, shall Travel, or come to their Inns, on the Lord's-Day.

29 Car. 2.  
cap. 7.

No Person shall use to Travel upon the Lord's-Day with any Boat, Wherry, &c. except allow'd by one Justice of Peace so to do,

29 Car. 2.  
cap. 7.

By View, Confession, or one Witness,

## PENALTIES.

Twenty Shillings for every Offence, to be levied by Distress and Sale, to the Use of the Poor.

He shall Forfeit Six Shillings and Eight Pence, if questioned within Six Months, to be Levied, &c. or may be Sued for in Sessions, &c.

He shall Forfeit the Value of every such pair, and also Three Shillings and Four Pence for every Pair.

He shall Forfeit Five Shillings for every Offence.

He shall Forfeit the said Wares, Fruit, Goods, &c. to the Use of the Poor.

The Forfeiture is Twenty Shillings for every Offence.

The Forfeiture is Five Shillings for every Offence. The Conviction upon the Statute must be before any Justice of the County, &c. who shall give Warrant to the Constables, &c. to Seize the Goods shewed, &c. and to Levy the Forfeitures by Distress, &c.

## OFFENCES.

This Act extends not to dressing of Meat in Cooks-Shops, Inns, or Victualling-Houses, for such as otherwise cannot be provided; nor to Hackney Coaches that are Licensed.

### Drunkenness.

A Crime, from which the Ancient Britains were free, therefore the Laws against it are new.

If any be Convicted for being Drunk, by One Witness, View, or Confession, and the Party confessing a good Witness against another Offending at the same time.

If any Ale-House-Keeper be Convicted of Drunkenness, he is disabled for Three Years to keep any Ale-House.

This Conviction of Drunkenness must be within Six Months after the Offence committed.

Inn-Keepers, Ale-House-Keepers, or Victuallers, that suffer any of the same Parish to continue Tipling in their Houses,

One Witness, View, or Confession, and the Party confessing a good Witness against another Offending at the same time.

Laws  
and  
Statutes.

Co. 3 Instit.  
fol. 200,  
201.

4 Jac. c. 5.  
21 Jac. c. 7.

7 Jac. c. 10.  
21 Jac. c. 7.

1 Jac. c. 9.  
21 Jac. c. 7.

## PENALTIES.

and for want of Distress, to put the Offender in the Stocks for Two Hours; The Justices, &c. may reward the Informer out of the Forfeitures, not exceeding the Third part.

Every Person must be Impeached upon this Act within Ten Days after the Offence.

The Offender for the first to pay Five Shillings to the Church-Wardens, where, &c. within one Week after Conviction, or else to be Levied by Warrant, &c. by Distress and Sale; and for want of Distress, to sit in the Stocks six Hours.

For the second Offence, must be Bound in Ten Pounds, with Two Sureties to the good Behaviour; and for want of Sureties, to be sent to Gaol.

If the Constable levy not the Forfeitures, he Forfeits Ten Shillings to the Poor, *ut supra*.

Ten Shillings to be Levied by Distress, and Sale after six days; and for want of Distress, to be committed till Payment, and Disabled for 3 Years from keeping any Ale-House, &c.

If the Constable or Church-Warden do not Levy the Penalty, or shall not certify the want of Distress within Twenty Days, he Forfeits Forty Shillings, to be levied by Distress and Sale, *ut supra*.

If

## OFFENCES.

If any Inn-Keeper, Ale-House-Keeper, Victualler, or Taverner, suffer any Person (wheresoever his Habitation be) to continue Tipling in his House,

Two Witnesses, or View.

Townsmen or others which shall remain Tipling in any Inn, Ale-House, or Victualling-House, One Witness, View, or Confession, *ut supra*.

Constables shall be charged on their Oaths to present Offences committed against these Acts.

These Statutes do Prohibit all Quaffing, and Drinking of Healths, such Houses being solely appointed for the Accommodation of Travellers, and for the Relief of the Poor.

## Swearing & Cursing.

If any Person shall Prophanely Swear or Curse in the Hearing of a Justice of Peace, Mayor, &c. or be Convicted of such Swearing, by One Witness, or Confession of the Party,

Every Offence against this Act must be proved within Ten Days after the Offence Committed.

Every Justice shall Register, &c. and certify to the next

## Laws and Statutes.

1 *Jac. cap. 9.*  
21 *Jac. C. 7.*  
1 *Car. cap. 4.*

4 *Jac. cap. 5.*  
21 *Jac. c. 7.*

1 *Car. cap. 4.*  
21 *Jac. c. 7.*  
1 *Dalt. cap. 7.*

21 *Jac. c. 20.*  
3 *Car. c. 4.*  
17 *Car. c. 4.*  
6, 7 *Guliel. Cap. 11.*

## PENALTIES.

Ten Shillings to be Levied by Distress, and for want of Satisfaction, in six days to be fold, restoring the Overplus; and for want of Distress, to be committed till Payment.

Three Shillings and Four Pence, to be Levied by Distress, after one Weeks Neglect of Payment; or to sit in the Stocks four Hours.

The Constable for his Neglect Forfeits Ten Shillings, *ut supra*.

Every such Taverner, which shall suffer any Person whatsoever to Tiple in his House, contrary to the said Statutes, shall be adjudged within the Statute, 1 *Jac. Cap. 9.*

He shall forfeit for every such Offence, to the Use of the Poor, the respective Sums following; every Servant, Day-Labourer, common Soldier, and common Seaman, One Shilling; every other Person, Two Shillings: If any Person, after Conviction, shall offend a Second time, such Person shall pay Double; and if a Third time, Treble the Sum respectively to be paid for the first Offence. Every Justice, Head-Officer, &c. may Command the Constables, &c. to Levy the same by Distress: And for want of Distress, the Offender being above the Age of Sixteen Years, shall be set in the Stocks, for every single Offence, one Hour; for any Number, at one and the same time, two Hours: If under Sixteen Years old, and shall not pay the said Twelve pence, he shall be whipp'd by the Constable, by Warrant of the Justice, Quarter-

## OFFENCES.

Quarter-Sessions of Peace all Convictions made before him upon this Act, and the time of making thereof, and for what Offence.

None shall in any Stage-Play, Shew, May-game, Interlude, or Pageant, Jestingly or Prophanely speak or use the Holy Name of God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Ghost, or Trinity.

### Blasphemy.

If any Person, having been Educated in, or at any time having made Profession of the Christian Religion, within this Realm, shall, by Writing, Printing, Teaching, or advised Speaking, deny any one of the Persons in the Holy Trinity to be God, or shall assert or maintain there are more Gods than One, or shall deny the Christian Religion to be true, or the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be of Divine Authority, and shall upon Indictment or Information in any of His Majesty's Courts at *Westminster*, or at the Assizes, be thereof Lawfully Convicted by the Oath of Two or more credible Witnesses,

*Note.* This Statute punishes not the Error, but the Impudence of the Offender.

*Laws  
and  
Statutes.*

3 Jac. C. 21.

9 & 10.  
*Gulielm. 3.*

## PENALTIES.

or by the Parent, Guardian, or Master, in the Presence of the Constable. Every Justice, or chief Magistrate, wilfully omitting the Performing of his Duty, shall forfeit Five Pounds, to be recovered by Action. The Act of the Sixth and Seventh of King WILLIAM to be Read four times in the Year, in all Churches and Chappels, under the pain of Twenty Shillings for Neglect thereof. General Issue, &c. Treble Costs, &c.

On pain of Ten Pounds, to be divided between the King and the Prosecutor, to be recovered by Action, &c.

For the first Offence, shall be adjudged incapable, and disabled in Law to all Intents and Purposes, to have or enjoy any Office or Employment Ecclesiastical, Civil, or Military, or any Part in them, or any Profit or Advantage appertaining to them; and if at the Time of Conviction Possess, &c. such Office, Place, or Employment, shall be void.

On the second Conviction, shall be disabled to Sue, Prosecute, Plead, or use any Action or Information in any Court of Law or Equity; or to be a Guardian, or an Executor, or Administrator, or capable of any Legacy, or Deed of Gift, or of any Office, Civil or Military, or Benefice Ecclesiastical, and shall suffer three Years Imprisonment, without Bail, from the Time of the Conviction.

The Information to a Justice of Peace, to be within four Days for Words, and the Prosecution within three Months after.

To be discharged of the Penalties incur'd by the first Conviction, on Renunciation, in the same Court where Convicted, within four Months after the Conviction.

*Leud*



## OFFENCES.

### Leud and Disorderly Practices.

Keeping of Baudy-Houses, &c. is against the Law of God, on which our Common Law in this Case is grounded: Therefore the Keepers of Houses of Baudry and Incontinence,

Reforters and Frequenters of Baudy-Houses,

The Ordinary may punish Incontinency in their Clergy by Imprisonment, at their discretion.

Adultery, &c. and all Acts of Baudry, are Breaches of the Peace,

If a Constable, &c. has Notice that a Woman is in Adultery, &c. with a Man, or that a Man or Woman of evil Fame is gone to a suspected House,

One that hath leud Women found in his House, common Whore-Masters, or Whores,

Strangers, or others, that are suspicious, that walk by Night, especially if they haunt leud Houses, or keep ill Company, or commit Outrages,

Justices must do their Duty,

Idlers that refuse to Work, and Disorderly Persons,

Wandering Rogues, &c.

If the Constable punish them not,

Laws  
and  
Statutes.

1 Vent. 33.  
Co. 3. Instir.  
Cap. 98.  
1 Hen. 7.  
fol. 6.

1 Hen. 7.  
Cap. 4.

5 Co. 1 p.  
27 b.

Cook 3. Inst.  
Dal. f. 224.

7 Jac. cap. 4.  
39 Eliz. c. 4.  
43 Eliz. c. 2.  
4 Hen. 7.  
Cap. 12.

39 Eliz. c. 4.  
1 Jac. cap. 7.

## PENALTIES.

Are to be Punished, being a Common Nufance, by Indictment at Common Law, by Fine and Imprisonment.

To be Bound with Sureties to the good Behaviour.

For which an Indictment will lie.

He may take Help with him, and if he find them so, he may carry them to Prison, or to a Justice, to be Bound over and Prosecuted.

To find sufficient Sureties for the Good Behaviour.

On pain of being put out of Commission, and other Punishment according to demerits.

To be Committed to the House of Correction.

To be Whipp'd, and sent to the Place of Birth; or if that not known, where last dwelt for one Year, or last passed.

He Forfeits Ten Shillings, to be Levied by a Warrant from Two Justices, Such

## OFFENCES.

Such as shall not Apprehend Rogues, &c. being at their Doors, Two Witnesses, or Confession,

Every Constable, &c. who does not punish such as are brought to him,

Such as disturb the Punishment of Rogues, &c.

Officers remiss in Punishing of Rogues, &c.

Such as run away, and leave their Charge upon the Parish,  
Such as threaten to run away,  
Two Witnesses,

If any Woman shall have a Bastard Child which may be chargeable to the Parish,

### Gaming.

Keepers of Play-Houses, & Unlawful Games, Upon View,

Officers shall search every Month,  
Such as Play in such Houses, Upon View,

Such Persons described in the Act as out of *Christmasts*, shall play at Unlawful Games any where within the Year,

Fraud in Play or Betting,

All Licenses to keep Houses or Places of Unlawful Games, shall be void.

## Laws and Statutes.

1 Jac. c. 7.

39 Eliz. c. 4.

1 Jac. C. 7.

7 Jac. C. 4.

33 Hen. 8.  
Cap. 9.

16 Car. 2.

cap. 7.  
2, 3 P. & M.  
Cap. 9.

## PENALTIES.

Ten Shillings to be Levied;  
*ut supra.*

Twenty Shillings to be Levied,  
*ut supra.*

Five Pounds to be Levied by Distress, and Bound to the Good Behaviour by Two Justices, *Quorum un.*

Ten Shillings to be Levied by Distress and Sale, *ut supra.*

To be Punished as Rogues, &c.

To be sent to the House of Correction, or give Security to discharge the Parish.

House of Correction for One Year, to be sent by Two Justices, and Bound not to Offend so again.

Forty Shillings, and Imprisonment until he become Bound by Recognizance to keep no more.

Forty Shillings.

Imprisonment until he be bound to play no more, and to pay 6s. 8d. to be recovered in *Quarter-Sessions*.

Imprisonment, and bound to the King to play no more, Twenty Shillings by Indictment in *Quarter-Sessions*.

Forfeit the Treble Value. Treble Costs.

Blank

**Blank Warrants in Cases of Prophane  
Swearing and Cursing, Drunkenness,  
and Prophanation of the Lords-Day.**

*London ss.* To the Constables, Church-War-  
dens, and Overseers of the Poor of  
the Parish of St. Michael Cornhill,  
and to every of them,

**W** Hereas A--- B--- Gent. living, &c. being  
above the Age of Sixteen Tears, standeth  
Convicted before Me of Prophane Swearing Five  
several times within your Parish, upon the Tenth  
Day of July instant, this being the Second time  
of his Conviction. These are therefore in His  
Majesty's Name, to Charge and Command you,  
and every of you, presently, upon Sight hereof,  
to Demand of the said A--- B--- the Sum of  
Twenty Shillings, for the Use of the Poor of  
your said Parish, according to the Form of the  
Statute in that Case made and provided. And if  
he shall refuse or neglect to pay the said Sum, that  
then you presently Levy the same by Distress and  
Sale of his Goods, rendring to him the Overplus.  
And in Defect of such Distress, that he be set  
publickly in the Stocks by the space of Two  
whole Hours, and this shall be your sufficient  
Warrant. Given under my Hand and Seal  
this                      day of                      in the  
Tenth Tear of the Reign of King William the  
Third. Anno Dom. 169

D

London





*London ss. To the Constables and Church-  
Wardens of the Parish of St. All-  
hallows Barkin, and to every of  
them.*

**W***Hereas A— B— in D---Lane, near  
E---Street, at the Sign of the Red-Lion,  
a Grocer, in your Parish, hath been Lawfully  
Convicted before me, that he, the Twentieth  
Day of June instant, being the Lord's-Day,  
did, in your Parish, by himself (or Servants)  
Exercise his Trade and ordinary Calling, with-  
out any lawful Cause, contrary to the Statutes  
in that Case made and provided. These are  
therefore, in His Majesty's Name, to Autho-  
rize and Require you forthwith to Levy the  
Sum of Five Shillings, of the said A--- B---  
by Distress and Sale of his Goods, for the  
Use of the Poor of your said Parish, ren-  
dring to him the Overplus: And in Default  
of Distress, or Inability of the Offender to pay  
the said Forfeitures, that you see that he be  
set publickly in the Stocks by the space of Two  
Hours. And of the due Execution hereof you  
are to give an Account when it shall be demanded.  
And hereof fail not at your Peril. Given un-  
der my Hand and Seal this Twenty Seventh  
Day of July, in the Tenth Tear of the Reign  
of King William the Third, Anno Dom. 169*

London ff. To the Constables, Headboroughs,  
and Tithing-Men of the Parish  
of St. A— B— and to every  
of them.

**W** Hereas J— G— Esq;  
was this Day Lawfully Convicted be-  
fore Me of the Offence of Drunkenness, by him  
Committed on the Day of  
in the said Parish, contrary to the Statute in  
that Case made and provided. These are there-  
fore, in His Majesty's Name, to Charge and  
Command you, that you do Require the said  
J— G— to pay for the said Offence, to the  
Church-Wardens of your said Parish, the Sum of  
Five Shillings, within One Week now next en-  
suing, for the Use of the Poor of the said Parish.  
And if he shall refuse or neglect to Pay the  
same, that then you Levy the same by Distress  
and Sale of his Goods, rendring to him the  
Overplus: And in Defect of such Distress, that  
he be set publickly in the Stocks, there to remain  
by the space of Six Hours. And of the due  
Execution hereof you are to give an Account  
when it shall be demanded. Hereof fail not  
at your Peril. Given under my Hand and  
Seal this day of in the  
Tenth Year of the Reign of King William  
the Third over England, &c. Anno Dom.

169

The

The Form of a Register of Warrants issued out in Cases of Prophaneness and Debauchery, containing the Offender's Name, Offence, Place of Abode, the Day of his Conviction, the Name of the Officer to whom the Warrants are delivered, useful for the Calling of Constables, Church-Wardens, and Overseers of the Poor, to an Account, at the Sessions, or otherwise, for the Execution of them, and the Application of the Money thereby levied to the Use of the Poor.

Delivered To	A Warrant dated	Against the Parish of	For the Offence of	Conviction	Committed upon	in the Parish of	How Executed
July 3. J. B. Constable.	July 2.	J. T. S. Clement. l. s. d.	Swearing 2. Cursing 5.	First. Second. Third.	June 28.	S. Clement.	Paid 14 s. Goods seized, or Stocks.
		Mercer.	Drunkennesse.				
			Prophanation of the Lord's Day, by permitting Tippling, or Exercising his Trade				

*Some Prudential Methods that have been Recommended to those that give Informations against Prophaneness and Debauchery in and about the Cities of London and Westminster; and particularly to the Members of the several Religious Societies that have acted in the business of Reformation.*

I. **T**O give no Information where the Matter of Fact is any ways doubtful.

II. Particularly as to *Drunkenness* to use Caution and Prudence in judging when a Man is *Drunk*. Tho' a Man that cannot stand upon his Legs, or that reels or staggers as he goes along the Streets, and is heard to falter remarkably in his Speech, unless in Case of some known natural Infirmary or Defect, may ordinarily be presumed to be *Drunk*.

III. As to *Prophane Swearing and Cursing*, it may be advisable, that they remember the Words of the *Oath*, or *Curse*, that they may be able to repeat them if it be required.

IV. As to *Permitting of Tipling*, which, in Strictness of Law, is punishable upon any Day, it has been thought advisable to take Notice only of what is done on the *Lord's-Day*.

V. As to the *Prophanation of the Lord's-Day*, by the Exercise of any Trade, or ordinary Calling, to Inform against such as they see Offending by the *Weighing, Measuring, Bargaining* for, or *Delivery* of Goods, or  
*Receiving*



*Receiving Money for them; as also against Bakers appearing in the Streets with their Baskets, or Barbers with their Pot, Bason, or Periwig-Box; Shoemakers, Taylors, Hatters, or other Tradesmen, carrying out their Work and Ware; and against all kind of Manual Labour, except in Cases of Necessity and Mercy.*

VI. As to the *Exposing Goods to Sale on the Lord's-Day*; if it be by those that live in Cellars, not to inform against them unless they are seen to sell their Goods, because such Persons have some Pretence for keeping open their Cellar Doors, or Windows, for the Benefit of the Light, or Air: But if any *Wares, Fruits, &c.* be Exposed without or above such Doors or Windows, or in any Shops with the Windows open, or upon Stalls, whether belonging to the Persons that own such Goods, or not, and tho' there be nothing seen to be sold, these are sufficient Grounds of Information.

VII. Not to use any Artifice to provoke or draw in others to the Breach of the Laws, in the Instances afore-mentioned, or any of the like kind, that they may have an Occasion to inform against them.

VIII. That in all their Applications to the *Magistrates*, they behave themselves towards them with Deference and Respect.

A Spe-

*A Specimen of an Agreement for the Forming of a Society for Reformation of Manners in any City, Town, or larger Village of the Kingdom, where there are but Three or Four Pious Persons that are willing to unite in such a Society, by their Subscribing this or some other Agreement of this nature, which is earnestly recommended to those that are piously dispos'd to give their Assistance in the Work of Reformation.*

**W**E whose Names are hereunto subscribed, out of a Sense of the Duty we owe to Almighty God, in pursuance of His Majesty's *Proclamation* for the Discouragement and Prosecution of *Debauchery* and *Prophaneness*, and for the Suppressing of them, do agree as followeth.

I. That we meet Weekly at ——— under the Penalty of ——— for each Default, without a just Cause, to consult how we may be most serviceable in Promoting the Execution of the Laws against *Prophaneness* and *Debauchery*.

II. That we use all proper means to prevail with Men of all Ranks to concur with us in this Design, especially such as are under the Obligation of *Oaths* to do so; and in order to their acting vigorously therein, That we endeavour to persuade them to form themselves into *Societies*, at least to have frequent Meetings for this purpose.

III. That

III. That we encourage and assist Officers in the Discharge of their Duty of Discovering *Disorderly Houses*, of taking up of Offenders, and carrying them before the Magistrates, and moreover endeavour to assist both Magistrates and Officers, by giving Informations our selves, as we have Opportunity.

IV. That, for Order sake, every Member in his turn be Chairman, (unless any desire to be excused) for Four successive days of Meeting: That as soon as four Members are met the Chairman, or in his absence the next in order upon the List, (that shall be made for that purpose) shall take his Place; and that from that time, to the breaking up of the Meeting, we forbear all Discourse of publick News, or our private Affairs; as also all unnecessary Disputes upon speculative and controversial points of Religion.

V. That when any thing is proposed and seconded, the Chairman shall put it to the Question, which shall be determined by the Majority, and such Determination, till alter'd by a Majority at another Meeting, shall generally conclude every Member of this Society, unless contrary to the Word of God, the Law of the Land, or any one's Conscience.

E

VI. That

VI. That if upon any Matter in Debate the Voices are equal, the Question shall be again proposed by the Chairman at the same Meeting, if more of the Members come in, or otherwise at the next, or some other Meeting.

VII. That it be part of the Office of the Chairman, to take Notice of the Breach of any of our *Orders*, to enquire of every Member how he hath discharged the Business that was allotted him at the last Meeting, and what Difficulties he hath met with, in order to find out proper Remedies: To read over the *Agreement* of this Society once a Month: To read over the minutes of what hath been resolved upon at the end of every Meeting, and the List of the Members, and to go or send to such as have been absent twice successively, without a just Excuse known to some Member of the Society; and the next time any such Persons shall be present, the Chairman for the time being shall put them in mind of the great Importance of the Business they are engaged in, and of the Obligations they have laid themselves under, by their Subscriptions to attend the *Meetings* of this Society.

VIII. That we endeavour to find out proper Persons to be brought into this Society; and that no Person shall be proposed for a Member but when four or more of the Society are



are present; and that none shall be admitted into this Society till they have been proposed at three several Meetings, and are thought to be Men of Piety and Temper; and that after any Person hath been proposed a second time for a Member, two Persons shall be appointed by the major part of the Society to make enquiry concerning his Life and Conversation.

IX. That in Cases of Difficulty that shall occur we consult the Learned in the Law, or other proper Persons, that we by no means go further than the Law will warrant us.

X. That we keep an exact Account of our Proceedings in a Book kept for that purpose.

XI. That the Debates and Resolutions of the Society be kept secret; and therefore no Person shall be admitted to be present at any Debate in any Meeting that is not a Member, unless upon special Occasion, and by Agreement of the Majority present.

XII. That we look upon our selves as under a peculiar Obligation to pray for the Reformation of the Nation in general, and to implore the Divine Direction and Blessing upon this our Undertaking in particular.

Vid. *His Grace the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury's late Circular Letter, with the concurring Letters of all the Bishops of that Province, for Persons frequently meeting and uniting in the Work of Reformation, and of their Obligation to give Informations to Magistrates of the Breaches of the Laws against Prophaneness and Immorality, pag. 3.*

## ADVERTISEMENT.

**A**N *Account of the Societies for Reformation of Manners in England and Ireland. Published with the Approbation of a considerable Number of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and of the Honourable Judges of both Kingdoms.*

Abstracts of the Penal-Laws against Prophaneness and Immorality, Blank Warrants, Registers, Specimens of an Agreement for the Forming of Societies for Reformation, Prudential Rules for the giving of Informations, &c.

Sold by B. Aylmer, at the Three Pigeons in Cornhill; W. Rogers, at the Sun in Fleet-Street; D. Brown, without Temple-Bar; J. Fox, in Westminster-Hall; and J. Downing in Bartholomew-Close near West-Smithfield, 1700.



**F I N I S.**

✓ Aylmer  
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JULY 1. 1691.

By Virtue of a Patent granted by King Charles II. for a New Invention of  
L A M P S with Convex Glasses.

**T**HE PROPRIETORS in the said Patent have hitherto undertaken to Light the City of London and Suburbs, on the Terms following :

- I. Each House to pay Five Shillings at setting up the Lamps, as a Fine for Five Years (being instead of the Charge of providing their own Lanthorn), and the Undertakers to keep the said Lamps in repair for Five Years at their own proper Costs and Charges.
- II. Each House to pay one Half-penny for every Dark Night the Lamps shall be Lighted, and the Undertakers to keep them burning from Six to Twelve at Night.

NOW, the said PROPRIETORS having considered the taking of Five Shillings Fine in hand for Five Years, doth not so well answer their Intentions for the Good of the Inhabitants, because many may die, and many others may have occasion to remove, before the Five Years are expired, and so lose the benefit of their Fines.

THEREFORE, for the greater Ease and Accommodation of the Inhabitants, the said PROPRIETORS do Propose and Undertake henceforward to Light the Inhabitants of London, Middlesex and Surrey, from Michaelmas to Lady-day, every Dark Night, on the Terms following :

- I. That upon setting up and lighting every Lamp, the Inhabitants shall each of them pay Six-pence as a Fine, and Two Shillings and Six-pence Rent, for Lighting the first Quarter, ending at Christmas; and at Christmas shall pay Six-pence for a Fine, and Two Shillings and Six-pence Rent, for Lighting the second Quarter, ending at Lady day, (which is a Half-penny per Night for Lighting every Dark Night, and one Shilling Fine for that Year.)
- II. That for every Year of the four following Years, the Inhabitants are to pay Six-pence Fine at Michaelmas, upon the first Lighting, with Two Shillings and Six-pence for the Quarters Rent due at Christmas following; and at Christmas other Six-pence Fine, with Two Shillings and Six-pence for the second Quarters Rent, due at Lady day.
- III. The PROPRIETORS do not require any Person to take Leases of them, but only to subscribe their Names to their Proposals.

Note, In Squares, and places where the Houses are very large, there the PROPRIETORS are to be at liberty to agree with the Inhabitants upon reasonable Terms, proportionable to their Houses.

*Reasons offered to all Gentlemen and Others, for the Encouragement of this Useful Invention.*

- I. If the Inhabitants were to keep the Streets Light from Six to Twelve, with Candles, it would cost each House One Penny a Night, which is performed by the Undertakers for a Half-penny.
- II. Light is most wanting after Nine a Clock at Night, all Shops then are usually shut up, and Candles in Lanthorns commonly are burnt out; and for want of a more durable Light, many abuses are committed.
- III. Such Shops as keep open late, have most reason to comply, and pay to these Lights, it accommodating Trade much better than before.
- IV. All such as do agree with the Undertakers, are freed from all trouble which they had before by Officers; and such as do not, must put out their own Lanthorns, and be liable to the Officers as before.

All Persons that desire, may be accommodated with the aforesaid Lights by the PATENTEES at Stationers-Hall within Ludgate, every Tuesday and Friday at Six a Clock in the Afternoon, and by Mr. John Stubbs their Clerk, at the Insurance-Office, on the West-side of the Royal-Exchange, any day at Exchange time.

The PATENTEES are

Sir Charles Hara, Knight.  
Henry Crispe,  
Ambrose Isted,  
John Stanion,  
Benjamin Rokeby,  
Thomas Apprice,  
Simon Harcourt, Clark  
of the Peace of Mid-  
dlesex. } Esquires.

Thomas Hobs,  
Hawly Bishop,  
Richard Chiswell,  
John Lilly,  
John Williams,  
William Hawes,  
Edmund Hemings,  
Francis Geary,  
The Executrix of William Mellish, Gent. } Gent.

&c.